

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9 stand rejected. In light of the remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

The Examiner has issued a provisional double-patenting rejection in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/998,964. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection because this case is presently in condition for allowance. Any double-patenting rejection should be made in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/998,964 which is not yet in condition for allowance.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview in which he agreed that the double-patenting rejection should be withdrawn and entered in the '964 application.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Application No.: 09/976,562

Docket No.: N3236.0034

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY  
LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036-2714  
(212) 835-1400  
Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs